

The Examiner is requested to consider the reference submitted with the attached Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 54-55 and 57-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,008,884 to Yamaguchi et al. Claim 56 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamaguchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,990,926 to Mercado. Claims 63-66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamaguchi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,493,446 to Nakajima. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

This application is a divisional application of prior pending Application No. 09/234,969 filed January 21, 1999. This application claims priority of foreign application No. 10-024043, filed January 22, 1998. Yamaguchi et al. was filed in the United States on April 27, 1998.

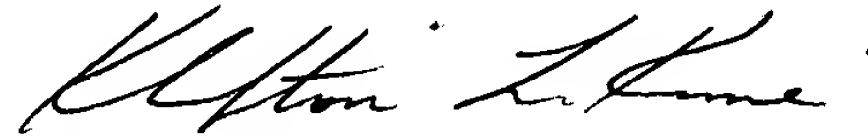
The certified copy of the foreign application No. 10-024043 was filed on February 8, 1999 in Application No. 09/234,969. An English translation is currently being prepared, and will be filed shortly. Since the Japanese priority application was filed before the April 27, 1998 U.S. filing date of Yamaguchi et al., Yamaguchi et al. is no longer available against this application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, since this application was filed on November 28, 2000, i.e., after November 29, 1999, 35 U.S.C. §103(c) applies, and therefore neither Yamaguchi et al. nor Mercado can be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Accordingly, both of the §103 rejections are improper.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 54-66 and 104-111 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 24, 2002

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement

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<p>DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461</p>

APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 16-18, 31, 32, 38-53 and 67-103 are canceled.

Claims 104-111 are added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims:

60. (Amended) A projection optical system according to claim 57, wherein ~~said~~the plurality of lenses further includes an additional negative group of lenses arranged between ~~said~~the first positive group of lenses and ~~said~~the second positive group of lenses, and a third positive group of lenses ~~is arranged in an optical path~~ between ~~said~~the negative group of lenses and ~~said another~~the additional negative group of lenses.

64. (Amended) A projection optical system according to claim ~~55~~63, wherein said plurality of lenses further includes an another aspherical lens surface with refractive power at a paraxial region and refractive power at a periphery, and wherein said refractive power at said periphery is stronger than said refractive power at said paraxial region.